

IBù 1 - 20 August 2005/xxvi

# King turns quitter!

## Where to for the Kingdom?

The Kingdom of Talossa was rocked to its foundations on August 15 2005/xxvi, when King Robert I, his wife Queen Amy and Prime Minister Marcüs Cantaloûr resigned all their Talossan titles and their citizenship.

This drastic move, which has shocked observers on all sides of the political divide, was the conclusion of an increasingly bitter battle between the King's political supporters and the Conservative Loyalist Party (CLP) led by Immigration Minister Fritz von Bucholtz.

With the Kingdom in not so much constitutional crisis as constitutional disarray, the question of the very survival of Talossa boils down to one question: can the CLP show their mettle and keep Talossa on the rails? If the reins of power in the Kingdom are not seized quickly, the country may degenerate into apathy and mass renunciations - which is exactly what the ex-King wants.

### CONSTITUTIONAL DISARRAY

CLP figures have correctly pointed out that the mess in which the departing Royalists have left the Kingdom is an outcome of the Kingdom's insistence on keeping almost all the levers of power in a few hands. John Woolley counts the cost of losing three people as losing *"the King, the Queen, the Secretary of State, the Prime Minister, the assistant*

*Immigration Minister, the Archivist, two out of seven Senators, one fifth of the Cosâ [lower house of Parliament] — 40 seats out of 200 —, the Secretary of the majority party in the Ziu [Parliament], and about six other less important jobs."*

This hyper-concentration of power came from the King's paranoia. The job of Secretary of State, often held by opposition figures in less crisis-ridden times, became a royal prerogative after the King felt it necessary to sue the previous occupant of the job in May 2004. Similarly, the only way that the King felt he could keep a majority in both houses of the Ziu was to make sure that his wife and his Prime Minister sat in both houses at once. A post-Madison Talossa will have to find ways to avoid such problems.

With Deputy Prime Minister Xhorxh Asmoûr absent without leave, the only effective power left in the Kingdom rests in the Uppermost Cort as "Council of Regency". With one seat vacant on the Court, Justices Marc Moisan and Dan Lorentz jointly hold the power to put Talossa back together. As we went to press, the question remained - could Lorentz be found to make this possible?

### A BIT OF HISTORY

Since Talossa opened itself to the Internet in 1995, Talossan history has shown a clearly cyclical pattern - a pattern of immigration, conflict,



and exodus. Every new wave of immigrants has divided into those who pledge loyalty to the King and those who form - or are forced into - an opposition. With every passing year, King Robert became less and less tolerant of diversity of opinions within Talossa.

While King Robert I had shown throughout Talossan history his clear determination to keep control of his Kingdom by any means necessary, these tendencies were kept under control while Talossa consisted entirely of his friends and personal acquaintances. Once

what the official Kingdom history calls "faceless people in far-away lands" started joining in 1995, the King became less restrained in preventing "undesirables" from immigrating, or, once they had immigrated, making life as intolerable as possible in order to force their resignation of citizenship.

The first group of Talossans to be actively driven away were the friends and political allies of then-Deputy Prime Minister Evan Gallagher in 1997. For the first time ever, though, these ex-Talossans didn't simply disap-

pear; instead, several of them founded a new micronation, the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia.

The Talossan Liberal Party, which traced its roots to those who initially wanted friendly relations with Penguinia, were driven out by 2001. Next, the King turned on Christopher Gruber - formerly the King's staunchest anti-Penguinian ally, decorated for his services to Talossa, but increasingly unwilling to knuckle under. Gruber's political allies created their own "Republic of Talossa" on 1 June 2004 - and instantly attracted to their number former Penguinians and Liberals, inspired by the idea of a Talossa not run as a loyalty cult.

In all of these "crises", the King behaved in exactly the same way. He responded to a challenge to his vision of what Talossa should be by setting up a "loyalty test" - a question on which all citizens had to agree with him or be declared "enemies" or "traitors". The concept of a Loyal Opposition - essential for any functioning democracy - has not existed in Talossa for at least ten years. You can't be a "loyal Talossan" - in the King's eyes - and oppose the King politically at the same time. And loyalty is, in the King's eyes, total or non-existent - friend, or traitor.

## WHERE FRITZ CROSSED THE LINE

Another characteristic of Royal behaviour has been that his "loyalty tests" can quickly turn into their opposites, and all his supporters are expected to change their opinions overnight to suit. Immigration policy is one of these.

When Talossa is too quiet or docile, the King has supported open immigration, and smeared opposition figures who try to keep new citizens out. In contrast, when the King feels under threat, immigration is severely curtailed, citizens are supposed to jump through several "loyalty hoops" to be accepted, and opposition figures who get too friendly with prospectives are supposed to be in some kind of bizarre plot.

To give one example from history, the King was originally the supporter of a 1996 law which meant that Ziu votes on citizenship would be by secret ballot, to protect those who voted against a prospective citizen being attacked for their vote. This was of course during the King's restrictive phases. When one of his pet prospectives - Matt Dabrowski - was voted down by the Ziu in 1999, the King flipped position overnight, decried the secret immigration ballot as "undemocratic", and pressured to have it removed. In this case, it was the King himself who wanted to attack legislators for their vote.

Fritz von Buchholtz has had the bad luck to be caught on the cusp of one of the King's unpredictable changes of heart. After the Revolution of June 2004, the King supported the abolition of most of the Kingdom's previously strict immigration laws, in order to replace citizens. Buchholtz, previously proprietor of a notable wargames store in the Greater Talossan Area, was head-hunted for the Kingdom precisely because of his contacts among "real world" Talossans - "cybercitizens" no longer considered trustworthy enough by the King's standards.

# What must be done NOW

**Based on the OrgLaw (constitution) of the Kingdom, here is how order can be restored north of the Vuode Wall:**

- The remaining members of the Uppermost Cort (Marc Moisan and Dan Lorentz) must come together and function as a Council of Regency. If Lorentz cannot be found, then **Moisan must act on his own** and presume that Lorentz doesn't really care that much about what happens.

- The functioning members of the Cort must **name a new caretaker Prime Minister until the elections**. After the resignations, opposition parties have a majority of 92-68 in the Cosâ. Therefore, **the opposition have the right to have one of their members named to this post**. We think that Fritz von Buchholtz would serve

admirably in this role.

- The new PM must name a new Secretary of State who can **get the Cosâ election happening**.

Once a new Cosâ is elected, democratic order will be restored and the new Kingdom government will have legitimacy. At this point, we think it vital that the elected Kingdom government, in the interests of Talossan unity, reach out to the elected government of the Republic and begin discussions of how the historical schism in Talossa can be healed.

**On no account must the King or his cronies be invited back.** They are the cause of conflict within Talossa, and have been since 1997. The Republic has shown that a Benless Talossa can work. Does the CLP have the nerve to give it a go?

# Who we are

Entent-Tú is published by citizens of the Republic of Talossa in the interest of better understanding and mutual relations between the two Talossan states. It is not the mouthpiece of any government or political party. Contact our editorial team at [heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz](mailto:heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz)

Buchholtz succeeded admirably in his mission to get new citizens for the Kingdom. Too well. The new citizens, many of whom joined Buchholtz's Conservative Loyalist Party, didn't show sufficient "loyalty" for the King's liking. The current crisis began when the King's tame Prime Minister, Marcüs Cantaloûr, unilaterally slapped a moratorium on future immigration, in the face of a possible CLP victory in the September elections for the Cosâ.

## A THIRD TALOSSA?

It seems unlikely that the former King will be back in the "Kingdom of Talossa" as it stands. In his abdication speech, Madison has said that *"if the next Ziu (or some subsequent Ziu) passes a resolution asking me to return, I will consider it. Never say never."* In other words - the King will only return if he's guaranteed a pledge of loyalty.

However, what Kingdom figures haven't seemed to consider is that there might soon be **a third Talossa** in existence - or, at least, some kind of new political entity set up by the ex-King. We have obtained an email sent by the King to his closest supporters after the abdication, in which he says:

*"If you want to save Talossa, let me know. If you want to renounce your citizenship, please also let me know so that a complete list can be drawn up."*

That doesn't sound like the declaration of a man who's giving up. It sounds like a man who's taken a tactical withdrawal and is rallying his troops for a fight. In 1992, when the King lost control of the country to Tom Buffone's "Unnamed Party", he seceded his home Province of Vuode. Will he do the same thing this time? Will he set up a "real Talossa" restricted only to his friends, and use it to persecute the remnant Kingdom the same way he has persecuted the Talossan Republic?

One thing is for sure. All Talossans who are devoted to the idea of a free, democratic Talossa, building on twenty-six years of history but rejecting personal rule and factional backstabbing, should be working together.